



## **STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD**

Highlights from May 11, 2010 Meeting  
(approved motions are in yellow)

### **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Update:**

- The CREP amendment for expansion into an additional 37 counties is on hold at the national level between USDA and OMB. Dates to officially announce the CREP expansion and a possible signing ceremony will be determined once the amendment has been fully approved..
- To date: 648 contracts, 4169.53 acres and \$976,787.00 have been completed. An additional 241 contracts, 1872.03 acres and \$542,722.00 have been obligated.
- To administer the CREP payments locally and more directly with participants the Indiana State Dept. of Ag and the State Soil Conservation Board plan to contract with approximately 10-20 Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout the CREP area. More information about this opportunity will be coming in the future.

### **Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Update:**

- 2010 CWI grant contracts have all been paid the first 75%. 2 Districts have submitted final reports and final payments are being issued.

### **Chairman and Executive Committee Update:**

- A meeting was held to discuss the portions of the 5 Star Program and the SSCB's strategic plan relating to SWCD evaluations or scorecard. The group has explored other state programs which implement various self-assessment mechanisms and there was consensus to move forward with development of this tool/scorecard. Information gathered would be used to build district capacity, determine if programs are effective and gather additional information. Final details have not been set.
- 2011 CWI Budget: ISDA, Conservation Director – Jerod Chew, outlined a proposed Clean Water Indiana budget for Fiscal Year 2011 that had been reviewed by the Executive Committee. At this time this proposed budget is based upon other budgetary changes that must be approved first. Until this approval is final the proposed budget serves the SSCB as a guide for making decisions which impact the 2011 budget. Details will be available in the meeting minutes. **CWI Grants Committee**

### **Recommendations:**

- 4 Districts have submitted proposals to receive additional disaster funds:
  - Dubois County requested \$42,000.000
  - Posey County requested \$30,000.00
  - Scott County requested \$10,000.00
  - Washington County requested \$8,000.00

- The grants committee recommended awarding those 4 districts with funds from the disaster account totaling \$90,000.00.
  - A motion was made to approve Posey, Scott and Washington Counties. Dubois County's request is pending until verification is made on the projects funded. **Projects must have been submitted prior to this approval and have documentation of the work completed (pictures, receipts).** Funding to landowners shall be no more than 50% of the cost with a cap of \$3,000.00. Motion was approved.
- For the 2011 CWI grants the committee recommended allowing each district the opportunity to receive up to \$7,000.00. The funds could be broken down into 3 sections of funding opportunities: 1. Base funding for soil and water conservation efforts utilizing the same/similar guidelines to those of the 2010 CWI Grants Program, 2. Partnering incentives, and 3. Supervisors/staff training. The base funds would consist of up to \$5,000.00. \$1,000.00 additional will be awarded to those districts who utilize their base funding to partner with other SWCDs, and another \$1,000.00 could be used for supervisor/staff training.
  - A motion was made for the 2011 CWI grants to set aside \$1000.00 for each district for supervisor/staff training with a minimum of 30% going to supervisors. An additional \$1000.00 will be awarded to each district for multidistrict partnering, and base funding will be set pending budget approval. Base funding amount could vary from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per district. Motion was approved.
- Les Zimmerman presented a request to extend the current Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) contract to August 31, 2010 and to increase the funding for the 2010-2011 CCSI budget. The budget requested increasing compensation, travel and contracts. Proposed 2010-2011 budget totals \$178,000. This is a \$62,319.00 increase from the previous year.
  - A motion was made to extend the current contract to August 31, 2010 and to fund half of the 2010-2011 CCSI budget totaling \$89,000.00 of CWI funds. Motion was approved.

#### **Other Highlights:**

- Annual Financial Reports have been submitted, contracts have been sent out and payments are being issued.
- Next Leadership Institute Workshop: Change – June 25-26, 2010 in Rensselaer, IN
- ICP Outreach Committee presented on the IN.gov project to develop a common online reporting tool for ICP.
- Next SSCB meeting will be July, 13, 2010. Location: TBD.